

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 INRE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 FBO-02 A-01 EURE-00 CU-02 SCA-01 SAJ-01 OC-06

CCO-00 SY-05 /070 W

-----281752 075773 /50

O R 281610Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4196

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION USBERLIN UNN

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION USNATO

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: SPON, SGEN, GE, US

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL OPENING OF CHANCERY

1. THE EMBASSY CELEBRATED THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF ITS NEW CHANCERY ON FEBRUARY 28 WITH A RECEPTION ATTENDED BY APPROXIMATELY 175 EAST GERMAN AND DIPLOMATIC GUESTS. THE RECEPTION WAS HELD IN THE LI-
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BRARY AUDITORIUM AREA ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE CHANCERY WHERE A USIS EXHIBIT TITLED " LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS" IS ON DISPLAY. AFTER AN OPENING SPEECH BY THE CHARGE IN WHICH THE POSSIBILITIES FOR FUTURE CULTURAL PROGRAMMING IN THE EMBASSY WERE DESCRIBED, THE GUESTS WERE SHOWN A FILM ON THE CARTER INAUGURATION.

2. THE ATMOSPHERE AT THE TWO HOUR RECEPTION WAS LOW-KEY AND INFORMAL. MANY GUESTS HAD QUESTIONS ABOUT THE EMBASSY LIBRARY AND FUTURE CULTURAL PROGRAMS. FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN THE CHARGE ANNOUNCED IN HIS SPEECH THAT THE LIBRARY WOULD BE OPEN TO ALL GDR CITIZENS, USA DESK OFFICER SIEMENS FROM GDR MFA TURNED TO EMBOFF AND INQUIRED AS TO SIZE LIBRARY.

3. WHILE EAST GERMAN ATTENDANCE AT THE RECEPTION WAS GOOD, MOST EAST EUROPEAN AMBASSADORS DID NOT ATTEND. ALTHOUGH SOVIET AMBASSADOR ABRASIMOV TOLD CHARGE TWO DAYS BEFORE THAT HE PLANNED TO ATTEND, THE SOVIET EMBASSY CALLED TWO HOURS BEFORE THE RECEPTION TO SAY THAT ABRASIMOV COULD NOT COME AND WOULD BE REPRESENTED BY MINISTER-COUNSELORS SOVA AND HOTULEV, WHO CAME. THE CZECH, POLISH, ROMANIAN AND BULGARIAN AMBASSADORS LIKEWISE DID NOT ATTEND ALTHOUGH THEIR DCMS DID. THE HUNGARIANS SENT NO ONE.

4. THE GDR GUEST WAS DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER KLAUS WILLERDING, WHO CONVEYED THE GREETINGS OF FONMIN FISCHER, THE HIGHEST-RANKING GUEST THE EMBASSY HAD INVITED. GDR FOREIGN MINISTRY AND TRADE OFFICIALS TURNED OUT IN LARGE NUMBERS, AS DID INVITEES FROM GDR ACADEMIC INSTITUTES AND HUMBOLDT UNIVERSITY. THERE WAS A HIGH ACCEPTANCE RATE AMONG PROMINENT GDR CULTURAL PERSONALITIES - GUNTER KUNERT, JUREK BECKER, MANFRED KRUG, STEFAN HEYM, HEINER MUELLER, AND GUNTER DE BRUYN. ALL CAME AND SPOKE OPENLY WITH EMBOFFS AND WITH EACH OTHER ABOUT THE POST-BIERMANN CULTURAL SITUATION.

5. MEDIA COVERAGE INCLUDED ABC-TV, SECOND GERMAN TELEVISION, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REUTERS, AP AND VARIOUS WEST GERMAN NEWSPAPERS AS WELL AS DPA PHOTO-COVERAGE, NBC-TV. ALONG WITH THE OTHER TELEVISION AGENCIES, HAD FILMED EXTENSIVE FOOTAGE EARLY IN WEEK, BUT AT LAST MOMENT PHONED TO SAY CAMERA TEAM HAD BEEN DIVERTED TO UGANDA. NEVERTHELESS, NBC CORRESPONDENT SAID SOME OF FOOTAGE MIGHT BE SHOWN ON TODAY SHOW. AGENCY REQUESTED VIDEO-TAPE ANY PRESENTATION MADE ON NBC OR ABC. MEANWHILE, SECOND GERMAN TV FEATURING EMBASSY OPENING WILL BE TELECAST TONIGHT ON 1900 NEWS SHOW ENTITLED " HEUTE". WHILE GDR-TV SHOWED NO INTEREST IN EMBASSY OPENING, SECOND GERMAN TV COVERAGE WILL INSURE THAT VIEWERS IN GDR MADE AWARE OF BOTH EMBASSY OPENING AND CULTURAL FACILITIES AVAILABLE TO THEM. ALSO COVERING EVENT WAS PRIVATE ORGANIZATION KNOWN AS GERMAN TELEVISION NEWS ON CONTRACT TO FRG MINISTRY FOR INNER GERMAN AFFAIRS. ALL MEDIA PRESENT AT OPENING FOCUSED ON CHARGE'S REMARKS CONCERNING GDR ACCESS TO CULTURAL AND LIBRARY FACILITIES.

6. NINETY PERCENT OF THE GUESTS VIEWED SCREENING OF USIA FILM " INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT CARTER", REPRESENTING AN AUDIENCE

WHICH , IN TERMS OF COMPOSITION, WILL BE HARD TO MATCH.

7. EMBASSY GRATIFIED BY OFFICIAL OPENING WHICH ATTRACTED MAJOR
GDR OFFICIALS FROM BROAD SPECTRUM OF MINISTRIES, INSTITUTES
AND ACADEMIC BODIES WITH WHICH EMBASSY DEALS, AS WELL AS
SOME OF GDR'S LEADING WRITERS AND ARTISTS, MOST OF WHOM HAVE
BEEN PROMINENT IN DISSIDENT MOVEMENT, AND WHOSE FORMIDABLE
PRESENCE ATTRACTED ATTENTION ESPECIALLY OF MEDIA AND
DIPLOMATIC CORPS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC MISSION OPENING, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, SOCIAL RECEPTIONS, CULTURAL EXCHANGES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BERLIN05394
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770068-1025
Format: TEL
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977024/aaaaadqr.tel
Line Count: 126
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3316874
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OFFICIAL OPENING OF CHANCERY
TAGS: SOPN, SGEN, AFSP, SCUL, GC, US
To: STATE USIA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e7334bc6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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